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step d) is accomplished by thickening both said inner (2) and said outer tubular layers.

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted to eliminate multiple dependent claims, particularly improper multiple dependent claims, eliminate reference designations, and to reduce the filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,

COLEMAN SUDOL SAPONE, P.C.

R. Neil Sudol

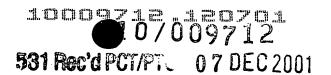
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APPENDIX TO PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AMENDED CLAIMS IN U.S. NATIONAL PHASE OF PCT/IB00/00778

- 1. (Once Amended) Multiple layer reinforced flexible hose comprising at least one first inner tubular layer [(2)] made of extruded plastic material, at least one second outer tubular layer [(3)] made of extruded plastic material, a tubular reinforcement [(4)] made of a textile material interposed between said first [(2)] and said second [(3)] layer, said layers [(2, 3)] being homogeneously joined in correspondence of their mutual contact surface so as to define a wall having an overall predetermined thickness [(S)], an end portion of said wall having an increased thickness along longitudinal portions [(A, B)] of predetermined extensions to thereby provide watertight sealing action with external connection organs, [characterised in that] wherein said increased thickness is substantially constant along the whole extension [(A)] of said longitudinal portions and in that the thickness increase is non-linear towards the free end of said longitudinal portions.
- 2. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim
 1, [characterised in that] wherein said increased thickness
 [(S')] is only [localised] localized on said outer tubular
 layer [(3)].
- 3. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said increased thickness [(S')] is only [localised] localized on said inner tubular layer [(2)].

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- 4. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim
- 1, [characterised in that] wherein said increased thickness [(S')] is [localised] localized on both said outer tubular layer [(3)] and said inner tubular layer [(2)].
- 5. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein said first [(2)] and said second tubular layers [(3)] are [coloured] colored with different pigmentation along their whole extension or along parts thereof.
- 6. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 5, [characterised in that] wherein said pigmentation and [colourings] colorings are substantially uniform and they are differentiated in correspondence of the thickness change of said longitudinal portions [(A, B)] with predetermined extension.
- 7. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to [anyone of the preceding claims] <u>claim 1</u>, [characterised in that] <u>wherein</u> [it] <u>said hose</u> comprises one or more further inner, outer or middle tubular layers, made of plastic material, having technical and/or aesthetic functions.
- 8. (Once Amended) Reinforced flexible hose according to claim 7, [characterised in that] wherein said one or more further plastic material layers are chosen [in] from the group comprising food compatible, anti-abrasives, UV shielding and ornamental films.
- 9. (Once Amended) Method for the production of a flexible hose [according to anyone of claims 1 to 8], comprising the following steps:

- a) extruding at least one first inner tubular layer
 [(2)] made of plastic material having a substantially constant
 advancement speed (V);
- b) weaving a <u>tubular reinforcement made of</u> textile fabrics material [(4)] onto [the] <u>an</u> outer surface of said first <u>inner tubular</u> layer [(3)], at the same advancement speed [(V)];
- c) extruding at least one second <u>outer</u> tubular layer [(2)] made of plastic material at substantially the same advancement speed [(V)] of said first <u>inner tubular</u> layer [(2)] and said tubular reinforcement [(4)] so as to allow a homogeneous fitting of said layers [(2, 3)] and form a wall having a predetermined thickness [(S)];
- d) providing longitudinal portions [(A, B)] having an increased thickness [(S', S")] in at least one of said first and[/or] second tubular layers [(2, 3)] so as to enhance resistance of the hose in order to [favour] favor a stable mating to hose end joints or to other irrigation accessories; and
- e) cutting the hose in correspondence [of] to said longitudinal portions [(A, B)] having increased thickness, [characterised in that] wherein said increased thickness is made substantially constant along the whole extension [(A)] of said longitudinal portions and with non-linear increase toward[s] the free end of said longitudinal portions.
- 10. (Once Amended) Method according to claim 9, [characterised in that] wherein said step d) is accomplished by means of a change [(\Delta V)] in the advancement speed [(V)] for at least one of said tubular layers [(2, 3)] in correspondence [of] to said [layers] portions [(A, B)] having increased thickness, said speed change [(\Delta V)] being carried out instantaneously and being subsequently reduced to zero along said longitudinal portions [(A)].

- 11. (Once Amended) Method according to claim 9, [characterised in that] wherein said step d) is accomplished by means of a change [(ΔQ)] in the flow [(Q)] of extruded material in correspondence of the increase in thickness, said flow change [(ΔQ)] being instantaneous.
- 12. (Once Amended) Method according to [anyone of claims 9 to 11] claim 9, [characterised in that] wherein said [phase] step) is accomplished by thickening only said first inner tubular layer [(3)].
- 13. (Once Amended) Method according to [anyone of claims 9 to 12] claim 9, [characterised in that] wherein said [phase] step) is accomplished by thickening only said second outer tubular layer [(2)].
- 14. (Once Amended) Method according to [anyone of claims 9 to 12] claim 9, [characterised in that] wherein said [phase] step) is accomplished by thickening both said inner [(3)] and said outer [(2)] tubular layers.

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